

VNG supports response to Hurricane Florence

As Hurricane Florence threatened the state, the Virginia National Guard staged more than 1,500 personnel at key locations across the commonwealth Sept. 12, 2018, to support local and state emergency management officials. As the storm turned south, Governor Ralph Northam authorized Virginia's resources to be redirected to North Carolina. The VNG sent approximately 40 Soldiers and 20 light medium tactical vehicles to support the recovery efforts there after the hurricane caused widespread flooding.

"We are incredibly fortunate that Hurricane Florence seems to have missed Virginia, so now we will turn our attention to supporting our neighbors to the south," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "We will keep a small force on standby in Virginia in case the Southwest Virginia area needs any assistance. I am incredibly proud of the great team effort that enabled us to have personnel and equipment ready to respond here in Virginia, and we welcome the opportunity to lend a hand in North Carolina. We know they would do the same for us if we needed the help."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/09/20/11999/>



Soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 1173rd Transportation Company drive through high water to deliver supplies to shelters Sept. 17, 2018, in North Carolina.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Airmen prep communications gear for crisis

Communications Airmen assigned to the 192nd Fighter Wing set up a mobile communications system, also known as the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability system, to help prepare for possible hurricane response missions.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/09/19/11974/>

Flora shares leadership philosophy with U.S. Army Africa

Brig. Gen. Lapthe C. Flora is the new U.S. Army Africa deputy commanding general and Army Reserve component integration adviser. He concurrently serves in the Virginia National Guard as the Assistant Adjutant General – Army. He recently participated in a leadership-based question and answer session.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/09/14/11996/>

AG swears in new JFHQ Inspector General

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, swore in Col. Anthony Daniels as the new Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia Command Inspector General Sept. 6, 2018, in Richmond, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/09/19/11981/>

VDF augments Virginia National Guard support for Hurricane Florence

The Virginia Defense Force brought nearly 50 personnel on state active duty to assist the Virginia National Guard with the statewide response to Hurricane Florence Sept. 9-18, 2018.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/09/21/12009/>

Did You Know?

Fitness App Safe User Guide

Location-based fitness apps have made the news lately for endangering operational security and personal privacy. One app, Polar, shared information on 6,460 users from 69 countries and 208 sensitive locations like FBI offices, nuclear power plants and missile defense locations.

Read tips to protect yourself at

<https://go.usa.gov/xUE7q>.

CERFP search and extraction team trains in West Virginia

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to a specialized response force traveled to Camp Dawson, West Virginia, for a 12-day, four-phase course on the basics of search and extraction during the latter half of August. The eleven Soldiers who attended the course are all assigned to the 180th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group.

"It's been an awesome school," said 1st Lt. Andrew Rotermund, executive officer for the 180th Engineer Company. "It's been really hands on. We don't learn anything in the classroom that we don't actually do here, out in the real world."

The course, called Extractor 1, was taught by Soldiers assigned to the West Virginia National Guard's Joint Interagency Training and Education Center. Soldiers spent the first several days learning the basics during the core phase of the course and focused on tasks including victim management, equipment maintenance, belaying operations, search operations and single point anchors before a one-day evaluation that included both a hands-on evaluation that required Soldiers to put their new skills to work and retrieve a "victim" from the bottom of a low slope, as well as a written examination.

"I'm a very visual person, so coming out and doing it out in the real world is the way that I learn best," Rotermund said.

After the core portion of the course, the Soldiers moved on to the ropes phase. This phase focused on multi-point anchor systems, ascent and descent, compound and complex mechanical advantage and rappelling. During one packed day, Soldiers rappelled using a variety of different systems and then launched into their ropes evaluation on the following day.

Next, Soldiers learned how to work and rescue in confined spaces for a few days before continuing on to the final phase of the course, the structural collapse phase which taught the Soldiers how to lift and move, shore and breach and break.

"Before I came to the training, I was not excited at all," said Sgt. Timothy Mahanes, a team leader in the 180th Engineer Company and a 12N horizontal construction engineer. "I would much rather have a bulldozer than a bunch of ropes; however, after going through the training, it's been fun and I found some practical uses for some of the training that I can take home with me and that's what makes it good."

The 180th Engineer Company serves as the search and extraction element of the state's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP. It includes six elements, including search and extraction, that together can provide support to civil authorities during times of disaster, either at the state or federal level after a chemical, biological or nuclear incident. The team is capable of conducting tasks including consequence management, incident site communications, urban search and rescue, mass casualty decontamination, technical decontamination, medical triage and stabilization and human remains recovery.

"The CERFP mission and general concept is kind of why I went into the National Guard," Rotermund said. "The ability



Eleven Virginia National Guard Soldiers test their knowledge during the core evaluation portion of the Extractor 1 Course Aug. 17, 2018, at Camp Dawson, West Virginia.

to help stateside and during a national disaster and helping the community around me was one of the main reasons for going Guard instead of active duty."

Virginia's CERFP was authorized in June 2006 and includes around 200 Soldiers and Airmen from both Virginia and Washington, D.C. The team undergoes an external evaluation every three years to ensure they're proficiency in 24 evaluation tasks. The Virginia team is one of 27 CERFP teams across the nation..

In addition to the Virginia Soldiers, National Guard troops from Nebraska and Florida attended the training in West Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/09/19/11989/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Youth Program accepting State Teen Panel applications

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/09/18/11968/>

Photos: VNG aviators support SF training in N.Y.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157701542314805>

Photos: Soldiers drive through high water to deliver supplies

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157671412935447>

Photos: Smith succeeds Johnson as VaARNG CSM

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157699646813231>

Photos: Gillis takes command of 329th RSG

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